

MEGALOPTA SMITH, 1853 (INSECTA, HYMENOPTERA): PROPOSED
DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.
Z.N.(S.) 1624

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The purpose of the present application is to request the use of the plenary powers to designate a type-species for *Megalopta* Smith, 1853, in accordance with accustomed usage.

2. *Megalopta* Smith, 1853 (*Catalogue hymenopt. Ins. Coll. Brit. Mus.* 1 : 83) was described with two included species, *bituberculata* Smith, 1853, and *idalia* Smith, 1853. The genus has become well-known in the neotropical region and has never been attributed to any other area. There is a monograph of the genus by Friese (1926) and revisional or biological studies by Cockerell (1900), Ducke (1912), Schrottky (1902), Moure, (1943, 1958) and others.

3. Cockerell (1900, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.*) and Meade-Waldo (1916, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (8) 17 : 451) designated *M. bituberculata* as the type-species. Unfortunately the type of *M. bituberculata* is actually an Australian insect in a different subfamily erroneously attributed to South America, as an examination of the type specimen in the British Museum (Natural History) shows. It would normally be placed in the Indoaustralian genus or subgenus *Keopenia* Friese, 1909 (*Ann. Hist. Nat. Mus. Hungarici* 7 : 205). Acceptance of the type designation would result in transfer of the name *Megalopta* from a Neotropical to an Australian group of bees and changes in the names of both groups.

4. Moure, 1958 (*J.N.Y. ent. Soc.* 66 : 179) argued that, because most of the characters cited in the original description of *Megalopta* were based upon *M. idalia*, that form and not *M. bituberculata* ought to be the type-species of the genus. This is in accordance with the type designation of *idalia* by Ducke, 1912 (*Zool. Jahrb., Syst.* 34 : 85). Regardless of the validity of Moure's argument, it is obvious that to conserve the currently accepted generic nomenclature, the Commission should take the following steps:

- (1) make use of its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Megalopta* Smith, 1853, and, having done so, designate *Megalopta idalia* Smith, 1853, to be the type-species of that genus;
- (2) place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Megalopta* Smith, 1853 (gender : feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Megalopta idalia* Smith, 1853;

- (b) *Reepenia* Friese, 1909 (gender : feminine), type-species, by monotypy, *Nomia variabilis* Friese, 1909;
- (3) place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *idalia* Smith, 1853, as published in the binomen *Megalopta idalia* (type-species of *Megalopta* Smith, 1853);
 - (b) *variabilis* Friese, 1909, as published in the binomen *Nomia variabilis* (type-species of *Reepenia* Friese, 1909).